



In The Claims:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A filter module consisting essentially of a single lens, three optical fibers, an optical filter, and a mirror, wherein said three optical fibers are arranged on a single side of said lens, wherein the filter module is configured to receive a signal and to output a filtered portion of the signal and an unfiltered portion of the signal on the single side of said lens.~~

A filter module comprising:

a lens through which an optical signal passes;

three optical fibers including a first, second, and third optical fibers;

an optical filter that transmits the optical signal in a particular wavelength band among a wavelength multiplex optical signal and reflects the optical signal in a wavelength band other than the particular wavelength band, and

a mirror that reflects the optical signal transmitted through the optical filter,

wherein said three optical fibers are arranged on a single side of said lens, wherein the first optical fiber receives the wavelength multiplex optical signal from the lens or outputs the wavelength multiplex optical signal to the lens, wherein the second optical fiber receives or outputs the optical signal reflected by the filter, and wherein the third optical fiber receives or outputs the optical signal reflected by the mirror after transmitted through the optical filter.

2. (Original) The filter module according to claim 1, wherein said lens is a refractive index distribution type rod lens having first and second end faces on opposite sides of the lens, wherein the first end face is coated with said optical filter, and wherein said three optical fibers are arranged on the second end face.

3. (Previously Presented) The filter module according to claim 1, further comprising a capillary for holding said three optical fibers, wherein the capillary is provided with a single through hole for holding the three optical fibers and wherein the capillary and the lens are cylindrical and the capillary has substantially the same diameter as that of the lens.

4. (Original) The filter module according to claim 3, wherein said through hole is formed by three inner walls, wherein said three optical fibers contact each other in said through hole, and each of said three inner walls contacts two optical fibers.

5. (Original) The filter module according to claim 1, wherein said mirror is a board having a wavelength independent total reflection mirror, and said mirror is arranged to face said optical filter.

6. (Original) The filter module according to claim 1, wherein said optical filter is a wavelength selective transmitting film, and wherein a set of fiber collimators is provided facing said wavelength selective transmitting film.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A demultiplexing/multiplexing unit, which is a multichannel demultiplexing/multiplexing unit formed by connecting in cascade a plurality of filter modules, wherein each of the filter modules consisting essentially of a single lens, three optical fibers, an optical filter, and a mirror, and said three optical fibers are arranged on a single side of said lens.~~

A demultiplexing/multiplexing unit, which is a multichannel demultiplexing/multiplexing unit formed by connecting in cascade a plurality of filter modules, wherein each of the filter modules comprises a lens through which an optical signal passes, three optical fibers including a first, second, and third optical fibers, an optical filter that transmits the optical signal in a particular wavelength band among a wavelength multiplex optical signal and reflects the optical signal in a wavelength band other than the particular wavelength band, and a mirror that reflects the optical signal transmitted through the optical filter; and said three optical fibers are arranged on a single side of said lens, wherein the first optical fiber inputs the wavelength multiplex optical signal from the lens or outputs the wavelength multiplex optical signal to the lens, wherein the second optical fiber inputs or outputs the optical signal reflected by the filter, and wherein the third optical fiber inputs or outputs the optical signal reflected by the mirror after transmitted through the optical filter.

8. (Original) The demultiplexing/multiplexing unit according to claim 7, wherein said lens is a refractive index distribution type rod lens having first and second end faces on opposite sides of the lens, wherein the first end face is coated with said optical filter, and wherein said three optical fibers are arranged on the second end face.

9. (Currently Amended) The demultiplexing/multiplexing unit according to claim 7, wherein said filter module further comprises a capillary for holding said three optical fibers, and the capillary is provided with a single-through hole for holding the three optical fibers and wherein the capillary and the lens are cylindrical and the capillary has substantially the same diameter as that of the lens.

10. (Original) The demultiplexing/multiplexing unit according to claim 9, wherein said through hole is formed by three inner walls, wherein said three optical fibers contact each other in said through hole, and each of said three inner walls contacts two optical fibers.

11. (Original) The demultiplexing/multiplexing unit according to claim 7, wherein said mirror is a board having a wavelength independent total reflection mirror, and said mirror is arranged to face said optical filter.

Please cancel claims 12-20.

12-20. (Cancelled)